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Docket No. THOLAM P167US

PATENT
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

re: the PATENT Application of: Earl Alexander Culham

Serial No. : 09/988,689
Title : Method of Linking Web Pages
Filed : November 20, 2001
Art Unit : 2178
Examiner : Kyle R. Stork

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

June 28, 2006

Dear Kyle:

The following is a complete list of the claims annotated with their status and, where necessary, their markup. My remarks follow the revised claims.

CLAIMS

1-69. (cancelled)

70. (currently amended) A method of linking web pages, comprising the steps of:
associating at least one supplementary link with a primary its anchoring web page,
each such supplementary link including those features of the anchor which identify the
target of a hypertext link while also excluding those features of the anchor which
make a regular hypertext link visible in the output rendering of its anchoring web page,
thus a supplementary link is normally hidden from view and does not disrupt the flow of
text or graphics displayed on the its anchoring web page;
providing information processing means by which the at least one supplementary
link is may be transformed into a regular hypertext link.

71. (currently amended) The method as defined in claim 70, at least one supplementary
link being stored in a datastructure that is separate from the primary its anchoring web
page.

72. (currently amended) The method as defined in claim 71, the datastructure being
associated with the primary its anchoring web page.

73. (cancelled)

74. (currently amended) The method as defined in claim 139, the user initiated command
being given through a single HTML tag on the primary its anchoring web page.

75. (previously presented) The method as defined in claim 139, the user initiated command
being a keystroke command code.

76. (previously presented) The method as defined in claim 139, the user initiated command
being through an icon.

77. (cancelled)

78. (original) The method as defined in claim 76, the icon being on a browser's tool bar.

79. (currently amended) The method as defined in claim 70, further including a request for
linking application process whereby a third party seeks permission from an owner of the
primary web page to add for associating a new supplementary link to the primary with that
web page.

80. (currently amended) The method as defined in claim 79, the request for linking
application process including a list of criterion which must be met before the third party
can add associate a new supplementary link to the primary with that web page, the
addition associating of the new supplementary link being automatically permitted upon the
third party meeting the list of criterion.

81. (original) The method as defined in claim 70, further including means for searching for
supplementary links within a specified proximity to a cursor.

82. (original) The method as defined in claim 70, further including a search engine that
searches for supplementary links that meet specified search criterion.

83. (currently amended) A method of linking web pages, comprising the steps of
associating at least one supplementary link with a primary web page, each such
supplementary link does not have an anchor on the primary within the content of that web
page, each supplementary link providing access to at least one secondary web page, each
supplementary link excluding those features of the anchor which make a hypertext link
visible and selectable in the output rendering of the primary web page, each supplementary
link being normally hidden from the view of the user so as not to disrupt the flow of text
or graphics displayed on the web page;
providing information processing means by which each supplementary link may be
transformed into a regular hypertext link.

84. (cancelled)

85. (cancelled)

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